



Dr. Ruth Cromie, Head of Wildlife Health for the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), began her career in wildlife health by gaining a PhD for vaccine development in wildfowl from University College, London, in 1991. Since then she has worked on various aspects of disease control from diagnostic technologies to environmental management in both wild and captive animals. She has worked on numerous health and welfare projects of primarily birds and marsupials in a number of organisations including Smithsonian Institution's National Zoological Park, Washington DC, USA; Hong Kong University; National Birds of Prey Centre, Gloucestershire; UK, and Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, Canterbury, Kent, UK.

Ruth is responsible for WWT's Wildlife Health programme which includes surveillance, research, advocacy, capacity building and policy work, as well as health management as part of WWT's species recovery programmes. Ruth has played a key role in the formation and implementation of WWT's Animal Welfare and Ethics Committee to ensure high welfare standards in all WWT's animal-related operations. Ruth regularly teaches wildlife health and conservation biology on a number of post-graduate programmes and co-directed Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust's Summer School in Endangered Species Conservation and Management. She is also external examiner for the Royal Veterinary College and Zoological Society of London's M.Sc. programmes in Wild Animal Health and Wild Animal Biology.

Ruth has worked extensively on issues such as tuberculosis, lead poisoning and avian influenza. With respect to H5N1 HPAI she has experience of national and international surveillance programmes and projects, organisational preparation and resilience, working with public and veterinary health sectors, policy, public relations and the media.

RUTH CROMIE

Head of Wildlife Health

*Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust
United Kingdom*

In recent times she has worked extensively on integrating wildlife health into multilateral environmental agreements for, amongst others, the Convention of Migratory Species (CMS) and the Ramsar Convention, being involved, most recently, in writing a resolution on ecosystem approaches to health in wetlands together with production of the recently launched substantive animal disease management resource for wetland habitats: the Ramsar Wetland Disease Manual.

Ruth also sits on the UN Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds and the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health, both CMS and FAO co-convened entities.